Claims

[c1]	A method for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller
	included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-
	boot test, comprising the steps of:
	a) detecting a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and
•	b) altering, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access
	configuration of the hardfile.
[c2]	The access method of claim 1 wherein the altering step b) dynamically sets a
	maximum accessible size of the hardfile.
[c3]	The access method of claim 1 wherein the hardfile is a hard drive.
[c4]	The method of <u>claim 1</u> wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of
	the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and
	wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile access to exclude the second part
	of the hardfile from access by the operating system.
[c5]	The method of claim 2 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of
	the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and
	wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile maximum size to exclude the
	second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.
[c6]	The method of <u>claim 4</u> wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.
[c7]	A method for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a computer system
	having an operating system, comprising the steps of:
	a) detecting a special boot condition during a pre-boot test of the computer
	system; and
	b) altering, in response to the special boot condition, an operating system
	access configuration of the hardfile.
[c8]	The access method of claim 7 wherein the altering step b) dynamically sets a

maximum accessible size of the hardfile.

The access method of claim 7 wherein the hardfile is a hard drive.

[c9]

[c10] The method of <u>claim 7</u> wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile access to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

[c11] The method of claim 8 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile maximum size to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

[c12] The method of <u>claim 10</u> wherein the special boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

[c13] A storage system for a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part in

A storage system for a computer system having an operating system, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part in a second mode.

A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, the hardfile for non-volatile

[c15]

[c14]

a second mode.

storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part in a second mode.

[c16] A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer system having an operating system, the hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part in a second mode.

[c17] A hardfile system for a computer system, comprising:

a hardfile for nonvolatile storage of a operating system and user data;

means, coupled to the computer system, for detecting a special boot condition

during the pre-boot test; and

means, coupled to the hardfile and to the detecting means, for altering, in

response to the special boot condition, an operating system access

configuration of the hardfile.

[c18] A hardfile storage system, comprising:

a hardfile for nonvolatile storage of an operating system for a computer system in a first part and for nonvolatile storage of user data in a second part; and means, coupled to the hardfile, for dynamically enabling operating system access to the hardfile in a first mode and a second mode, wherein the first mode enables access to the first part and the second part and the second mode enables access to only the first part.

[c19] A computer usable medium having computer readable program code means

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[c23]

embodied therein for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-boot test, the computer readable program code means in the computer usable medium comprising: computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to detect a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to alter, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access configuration parameter of the hardfile.

- [c20] The computer usable medium of <u>claim 19</u> wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.
- [c21] The computer usable medium of claim 19 wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.
- [c22] The computer usable medium of <u>claim 21</u> wherein the configuration parameter is a SETMAX value.
 - A computer readable medium containing program instructions for access control of a hard file in a computer system, the program instructions for:

 a) detecting a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and
 b) altering, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access
- [c24] The computer readable medium of <u>claim 23</u> wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

configuration of an access parameter of the hardfile.

[c25] The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.